



5 Tips for Designing a Successful STEM Classroom

Teachers and administrators spend long, grueling hours preparing for classes, teaching, grading, and doing the paperwork that “comes with the job”. Throw in requirements for STEM designation and furnishing the classroom so that it works with the curriculum and the stress can become unbearable. I have recently designed several STEM labs, so I decided to create a list of 5 tips to help with the design of your classrooms.

1. Know what you have:

- Number of students and materials required for the classes
- Where the power is coming from for equipment and computers
- Ages and number of students using the classroom

2. Know the needs of your students:

- Know if ADA accommodations are needed
- If students will work in teams to build and present projects, know the number of students per team
- Determine if students complete projects while sitting or standing

3. Know your curricula and its requirements:

- The materials used and the size (to determine storage needs)
- If staging and building areas are needed
- If there is specialized equipment needed

4. Know the teaching style:

- If the teacher will roam the classroom or work primarily at the podium
- If the teacher will need specialized IT equipment and if it will have to be accessed frequently
- If visibility of all computer screens is necessary

5. Know the process you will need to follow to “make it all happen” and give it at least 8 weeks:

- Design the furniture for the classroom - at least 2 weeks
- Place order and field measure - at least 1 week
- Produce, ship, and install the furniture - at least 5 weeks



**Have a question about your
STEM classroom?**

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